Justice of the Peace
and
LOCAL GOVERNMENT REVIEW

Saturday, March 12, 1955 Vol. CXIX. No. 11

Official & Classified Advertisements, etc.

Official Advertisements (Appointments, Tenders, etc.), 2s. 6d. per line and 3s. 6d. per displayed headline. Classified Advertisements, 24 words 6s. (each additional line 1s. 6d.) Box Number, 1s. extra *Latest time for receipt 2 p.m. Wednesday*

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NOTIFICATION OF VACANCIES ORDER, 1952

The engagement of persons answering these advertisements must be made through a Local Office of the Ministry of Labour or a Scheduled Employment Agency if the applicant is a man aged 18-64 or a woman aged 18-59 inclusive unless he or she, or the employment, is excepted from the provisions of the Notification of Vacancies Order, 1952. *Note:* Barristers, Solicitors, Local Government Officers, who are engaged in a professional, administrative or executive capacity, Police Officers and Social Workers are excepted from the provisions of the Order.

BOROUGH OF BATLEY

LEGAL CLERK required—Salary Grade A.P.T. I (£500 × £20—£580). Sound experience in conveyancing and general legal work necessary. The post, which is a permanent appointment, is subject to the Superannuation Acts and to the National Joint Council Scheme of Conditions of Service.

Applications on forms obtainable from the undersigned should be returned (endorsed "Legal Clerk") not later than March 25, 1955.

L. O. BOTTOMLEY,
Town Clerk.

Town Hall,
Batley.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Assistant Solicitor in my office on J.N.C. salary scale A (maximum £1,228 15*s.* 0*d.*), the commencing salary to be determined in accordance with the experience of the person selected. An essential car allowance will be made available to the successful candidate.

Applications with the names of two persons to whom reference may be made must reach me not later than March 23, 1955.

A. R. DAVIES,
Clerk of the County Council.

Shire Hall,
Nottingham.

URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL OF RUISLIP-NORTHWOOD

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of Assistant Solicitor. Salary within the scale £690—£900 per annum, plus London "weighting," commencing salary to be fixed according to experience. Superannuable post, subject to medical examination. N.J.C. Service Conditions apply. The provision of housing for the successful candidate may be considered, if required.

Application forms obtainable from the undersigned, to whom they should be returned, with the names of three referees, and endorsed "Appointment of Assistant Solicitor." Closing date: March 25, 1955. Canvassing will disqualify.

EDWARD S. SAYWELL,
Clerk of the Council.

Council Offices,
Northwood, Middlesex.
March 3, 1955.

CITY OF LIVERPOOL

Appointment of Probation Officer (Female)

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment, duties to commence June 1, 1955.

Applicants must be not less than 23 years, nor more than 40 years of age, unless at present serving as a whole-time Probation Officer.

Salary and appointment will be in accordance with the Probation Rules.

Application form, obtainable by sending a stamped, addressed envelope to the undersigned, should be completed and returned not later than March 22, 1955.

H. A. G. LANGTON,
Clerk to the Justices and Secretary to the Probation Committee.

City Magistrates' Courts,
Dale Street,
Liverpool, 2.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM

Legal Assistant

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Legal Assistant. The post affords an opportunity of valuable experience; the successful applicant will serve as personal assistant to the Assistant Town Clerk, and will deal with legal problems of wide variety and interest. Salary A.P.T. IV (£675 × £30—£825). Pension scheme, medical examination. Applications with three recent testimonials (copies) to Town Clerk, Room 30B, Council House, Birmingham, by March 23, 1955.

Canvassing disqualifies.

J. F. GREGG,
Town Clerk.

March 4, 1955.

CITY AND COUNTY OF BRISTOL

Town Clerk's Department

WANTED—Clerk in Prosecutions Section. Salary £600 rising by annual increments of £25 to £725 per annum. Position superannuable. Experience in High Court (Criminal Work) and Magistrates' Court practice essential.

Applications marked "Clerk-Prosecutions" to be received by undersigned at Council House, Corn Street, Bristol, 1, by April 16, 1955.

ALEXANDER PICKARD,
Town Clerk.

CITY OF LEEDS

Assistant Solicitor

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of an Assistant Solicitor in my Office at a salary within Grade A.P.T. VI (£825—£1,000). The commencing salary will be fixed according to qualifications and experience.

The person appointed will be required to conduct prosecutions on behalf of the Police and the Corporation and to assist in the work of the office generally. He will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Acts, 1937 to 1953, and will be required to pass a medical examination before his appointment is confirmed.

Applications, with details of age, date of admission, qualifications and experience, together with the names of two persons to whom reference may be made must reach me by March 26, 1955.

Canvassing in any form, either directly or indirectly, will be a disqualification.

ROBERT CRUTE,
Town Clerk.

Civic Hall,
Leeds, 1.
February 25, 1955.

MIDDLESEX COMBINED PROBATION AREA

Appointment of Whole-time Woman Probation Officer

APPLICANTS must be not less than 23 nor more than 40 years of age, except in case of a serving Probation Officer and have recognized Social Science Training. Appointment and salary according to Probation Rules, 1949/54 with £30 per annum Met. Addition; subject to superannuation deductions and medical assessment. Application forms from undersigned returnable by March 26 (quote Q.88 JP).

KENNETH GOODACRE,
Clerk to the County Probation Committee.

Guildhall,
Westminster, S.W.1.

Justice of the Peace
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REPORTS

NOTES OF THE WEEK

Privacy in Royal Homes

The General Council of the Press has performed a public service by issuing, with the concurrence of the Press Secretary to the Queen, a statement on the subject of giving information about the internal affairs of the royal households. In the last few years several books have been published by former members of the households—some harmless, some in bad taste. There has also been *A King's Story* written by the Duke of Windsor. The last named is a contribution to the history of the British monarchy and people which, although some old fashioned persons may regret it, will (we do not doubt) take its place among future generations as a work of reference, comparable to the letters and diaries of Queen Victoria which were published after her death. Gossip by former employees is another matter. The statement from the General Council of the Press now makes it known that for some time past persons entering any of the households of the Royal Family have been required to give an undertaking, that they will not supply information to the press or use for their own profit, when they have left the service, facts which have come to their knowledge within the household walls. This is as it should be; as Her Majesty's Press Secretary remarked in his communication to the Press Council, she and other members of the Royal Family are entitled to reasonable privacy in their private lives. Complete privacy there can never be, for it is undoubtedly a matter of proper interest to her peoples here and overseas that she goes to church on Sundays, that she prefers certain forms of recreation to others, and so forth. The point at which to stop is to be found by reasonable discretion and common decency on the part of editors. The sort of thing which (we imagine) most ordinary English men and women regard as inexcusable is the headline appearing lately on the posters of a newspaper: "Why not Princess Margaret in a swim suit," during the Princess's tour in the West Indies. It may be (we do not know) that the local governments in the West Indian Islands took some steps to protect the Princess's privacy if she indulged in sea bathing, as they were obliged to protect her from the intrusion of American tourists (and some others) as she walked about. They were fully entitled to do so, for any woman can fairly object to having her photograph published in her bathing costume, be she a personage of note or quite unknown. And where the Queen's sister is concerned, there are public considerations to be borne in mind. The Commonwealth includes many races which do not regard costume in the light-hearted fashion now adopted in this country; nor indeed do all European nations. To say nothing of personal feelings, which in the British Isles at any rate there will be a general desire to respect, there is a question of decorum in the eyes of the outside world, which should not be sacrificed to make a photographer's holiday.

Deterrence and Reform

As we have said many times, opinions are sharply divided on the respective claims of deterrence and reform to first place among the objects of punishment. It is the subject of frequent discussion at conferences and elsewhere, and the fact that expressions of opinion by experts at public conferences are reported in the press means that public opinion becomes better informed. A recent conference at the Shropshire Adult College, which took the form of a week-end course, was reported in some detail by the *Manchester Guardian*, and therefore the views expressed by a number of speakers will have been read widely. The subject was "Crime and punishment" but, says the *Manchester Guardian*, the speakers emphasized more the subject of the criminal and his reformation. "Of those who joined the course chiefly to listen, the social welfare workers, the probation officers, and the justices of the peace were in sympathy with this change of emphasis; the police officers and those who attended the course with no professional stake in the subject showed more interest in punishment."

Both sides seem to have been well represented by speakers who had had experience and were prepared to justify their points of view, and the course must have provided those who attended, and others who read what took place, with something to think about.

The Time for Reform

One speaker observed that the reformation of the criminal, though of importance, did not have a central place in our conception of punishment. Taking the principle of reformation to its ultimate point, he pictured a system which detected potential offenders, put them in protective custody, and gave them curative treatment whether they were mentally abnormal or not and whether or not they had committed an offence. If they were mental cases they would be given appropriate treatment; otherwise they would be re-educated by other means.

People would not be selected because they had broken the law. The two principal objections to this system were that it was unfair and that there was nobody capable of deciding who was abnormal and in need of re-education. "If you once begin to interfere with people's liberty," said the speaker "for their own or the community's good without their having been proved to have broken a known law, then they no longer have the freedom to plan their own lives in the full knowledge of what is coming to them, and your system is to that extent unfair."

That such a system would be unfair and unpractical would be generally agreed. To adopt it would be rather like going with Alice "Through the Looking Glass."

"For instance now," said the Queen, "there's the 'King's Messenger.' He's in prison now being punished; and the trial doesn't even begin till next Wednesday; and of course the crime comes last of all."

"Suppose he never commits the crime," said Alice.

"That would be all the better," said the Queen.

Husband's Liability to National Assistance Board.

Two cases before the Divisional Court, reported in (*The Times*) of March 3, dealt with the liability of a husband towards the National Assistance Board in respect of assistance given to the wife, the parties having agreed to live apart.

In *Stopher* v. *National Assistance Board* the justices had found that the parties were living apart by agreement and that there was no provision, express or implied, for payment of maintenance. The wife had not been guilty of any matrimonial offence. In *National Assistance Board* v. *Parkes*, the wife had covenanted that she would not at any time claim to be entitled to maintenance for herself.

In the course of his judgment the Lord Chief Justice observed that whenever a wife, apart from an adulterous or deserting wife, became chargeable to the Poor Law the obligation of the husband had not been in doubt. Lord Goddard referred to *N.A.B.* v. *Wilkinson* [1952] 2 All E.R. 255; 116 J.P. 428, and *N.A.B.* v. *Prisk* [1954] 1 All E.R. 400; 118 J.P. 194, and said that the proposition that if there was a consensual separation without an agreement for the maintenance of the wife, the wife could not recover maintenance from her husband, was true so far as the Summary Jurisdiction (Separation and Maintenance) Acts were concerned. If, however, a wife went to the National Assistance Board for maintenance, where there was no matrimonial offence on her part, the husband remained under an obligation to support her. The Court was not bound by agreements between the parties.

Imprisonment and Fine for one and the same Offence

Magistrates' courts are regulated as to their powers and procedure in almost all respects by statute and statutory rules. Quarter sessions are not in quite the same position, but have certain inherent powers.

As long ago as 1925 it was laid down in the Criminal Justice Act, s. 27 (*see* now Magistrates' Courts Act, s. 108) that when a court of summary jurisdiction imposed both imprisonment and fine for one and the same offence the term of imprisonment imposed in the event of failure to pay the fine might be made consecutive to the term imposed without the option of a fine, and this notwithstanding the fact that the aggregate term might exceed the total imprisonment allowed by statute in respect of consecutive sentences. That section, of course, did not apply to sentences passed by quarter sessions.

The powers of quarter sessions were questioned in *R.* v. *Carver* [1955] 1 All E.R. 413 and decided by the Court of Criminal Appeal. This was a case in which the appellant had been sentenced to the maximum period of imprisonment prescribed by statute and in addition to pay a fine, with further imprisonment to follow in default of payment. It was argued that the further term was imposed without authority, since it meant that the term laid down as the maximum would be exceeded. The Court of Criminal Appeal dismissed the appeal. The Lord Chief Justice referred to the changes in the law relating to the imposition and enforcement of fines effected by the Criminal Justice Act, 1948, and in particular to s. 14, and said that the statute authorized the imposition of imprisonment in cases dealt with by courts of assize or quarter sessions. He pointed out that if the term imposed in default of payment of a fine could not be made consecutive to the other part of the sentence, a man who could not pay might be in a better position than a man with means who paid his fine.

It is without doubt satisfactory that in this respect courts of quarter sessions and magistrates' courts should have similar powers and that the law should be as it has been declared to be.

Magistrates' Sitting in Camera

A Sunday newspaper has called attention to proceedings before justices in which, it is stated, the press and the public were excluded and neither the name and address of the defendant nor the charge and the result of the proceedings were made known. The newspaper in question asks "Are we back in the age of secret tribunals?" and concludes "It will surprise most people to realize that anyone may be hauled before magistrates, a charge made and inquired into, and the charge dismissed, or the person involved sent for trial, all in secret."

The power of examining justices to sit in private is now contained in s. 4 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952, but it is very rarely exercised, it being considered that as a general rule more harm than good would result from any practice of sitting in private. There may be occasional exceptions. Obviously, much of the evidence in cases under the Official Secrets Acts must, in the public interest, be given *in camera*, although the sentence must be pronounced in public, and it is usual for the name of an accused person to be made public in the proceedings before examining justices. Summary proceedings of course, must generally be public, in accordance with the provisions of s. 98 of the Magistrates' Courts Act.

We have no means of knowing why the case referred to in the Sunday newspaper was dealt with under conditions of such strict secrecy. There may be a good explanation which, for some reason, could be not given at the time but which will be forthcoming.

A Congress on Crime Prevention

In a press notice, the Home Office gives particulars of the first United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and Treatment of Offenders. It will be held in the Palais des Nations, Geneva, from August 22 to September 3. The Congress, it is stated, is part of a broader structure which provides for the organization of regional conferences, set up when the functions of the International Penal and Penitentiary Commission were transferred to the United Nations.

The Congress will comprise three categories of participants, namely:

(1) Members officially appointed by their governments, who will be experts in the field of the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, possessing a special knowledge of, or experience in, the subjects of the agenda.

(2) Observers of specialized agencies and of non-governmental organizations having working relationships with the United Nations.

(3) Individual observers. Individuals with a direct interest in the subjects of the Congress (*e.g.*, government, court, police and institution officials, justices, educationists, social scientists, etc.) who wish to attend at their own expense should apply to the Director, Division of Social Welfare, United Nations, New York, U.S.A., stating profession, and relevant organizations of which they are members.

The agenda of the Congress will include the following items:

(1) Standard minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners;

(2) Selection and training of personnel;

(3) Open institutions;

(4) Prison labour;

(5) Juvenile delinquency.

In addition, the programme will include arrangements for visits to institutions, the showing of films, etc.

Confidential Information

We shall be publishing in an early issue a contributed article by a town clerk, which throws useful light on the old problem of disclosure of information in the press or by bandying it about from one person to another. Sometimes information ought not to be disclosed at all; more often it could eventually be disclosed without detriment to any public interest, but ought to be kept confidential for the time being. As our readers know, we are strongly opposed in principle to secrecy in local government, but it is obvious that there are matters which must be kept within the knowledge of a comparatively few persons, such as members of a committee and officials, until a proper stage is reached for their becoming known more widely. Our learned contributor calls attention to the possibility of invoking the law to prevent premature disclosure, but the trouble in doing this is practical. In most cases mischief has been done before senior officials of the local authority get to know that publication is intended. There are occasional leakages from a council's office, but more often information gets into the press before it ought to, or into local gossip, through the indiscretion of a councillor. Human vanity, as in the case of the Chancellor of the Exchequer who lost his office from this cause, may tempt the councillor to tell his friends, and perhaps to tell an editor or reporter of the local newspaper, that he is in possession of some tit-bit of information which is not generally known. Less often a councillor through a misguided sense of duty, or what he professes to believe is a sense of duty, lets out information because he thinks that the electorate " have a right to know." If he hands committee papers to a newspaper which reproduces them, there is a breach of copyright, as our contributor points out, but the council as owners of the copyright would usually have suffered no pecuniary loss, and an action for damages would be costly, troublesome, and ineffective, except from the point of view of teaching the newspaper a rather barren lesson. This would scarcely ever be worth while. On the other hand, an action for injunction is futile if publication has taken place before the machinery for an injunction can be set going.

There are, moreover, cases where neither damages nor an injunction would be appropriate. There is no contractual relation between the newspaper and the local authority, so that if the newspaper does not reproduce a copyright document, *i.e.*, if it relies merely upon oral information, we cannot see any method in which the law can intervene effectively. When all is said, the true remedy (whether there also is a legal remedy, or not) lies in establishing a proper relation between the local authority and the local press, a process calling for reasonable adjustment on both sides. To this end, and as a basis for discussion, we welcome the statement issued in *The Times* for January 26, 1955, by the General Council of the Press, a statement which (it appears) has been supplied by them to the local government associations.

Hire Purchase

Politically it was inevitable that the Government should last year remove restrictions upon hire purchase. There are wealthy and influential bodies engaged in hire purchase trading, indirectly as well as directly; it seemed desirable to administer a fillip to internal trade, and above all there was the general (usually unthinking) demand for " freedom " in everything and in all directions. Among our own readers who as social workers, or in various forms of local government, and even through duty in the magistrates' courts, are concerned with the ordinary life of wage earners there was a good deal of anxiety. Figures published about the beginning of this year showed that the hire purchase mania has never reached here the dimensions which it reached in the United States, and hire purchase interests were saying openly at that time that there was almost unlimited scope for the weekly wage earner to extend his commitments in this form. Most of our readers (we imagine) who have official salaries, whether these are large or small, will have acted throughout life upon the principle that they will only buy what they can pay for, and their hire purchase is not likely to have gone beyond such things as gas and electric stoves, which are commonly supplied upon that method and sometimes cannot be obtained for " cash down "—and are permanent assets in the home. A motor car may have been added to the hire purchase account since the second world war, but what is popularly known as " never never " buying is still deeply distrusted by persons of that ordinary prudent type which subscribes to the *J.P. & L.G.R.* We should say that in local government and magistrates' courts circles there will accordingly be some relief at the Government's change of front in February. Nobody (we think) except a hot pressure salesman can regard it as unreasonable that a wage earner, before embarking upon a hire purchase transaction, should be able to put down 15 *per cent.* of the total price, or that the instalments should be spread over a period not greater than two years, with four years as an exceptional provision. At the time of going to press we do not know precisely what form of permanent enactment the Government contemplate, to give effect to their decision in this sense, but we think that sensible and sober public opinion will welcome any reasonable provision, to protect those who have not yet learned to protect themselves in the saving and spending of their money. There is no question here of restriction for restriction's sake.

THE SEVENTEENTH CENTURY CONSTABLE

By JOHN HALES-TOOKE

Much has been written about seventeenth century local government, mainly to prove it never existed. Seen in retrospect, one cannot but wonder at its simplicity and efficiency given half a chance. The doddering Dogberries and Justice Shallows as Shakespeare portrayed them were the exception rather than the rule. Once again it is William Lampard, the lucid exponent of Jacobean law, who provides the key to a most fascinating puzzle.

There was no nice distinction between civil and criminal jurisdiction, between legal and purely administrative functions. The constable and the borsholder were men of all work ; keep the peace they most certainly did, but merely as an incident in a far wider range of duties.

Rarely has local government been so perfectly poised as in this century. On the one hand the constable was appointed to keep order within the "Hundred" or "Town" committed to his charge. On the other, the inhabitants of that "Town" or "Hundred" were heavily fined for permitting any disorder which the constable was unable to quell. It was the borsholders' lot to answer for this fine.

If Lampard is to be believed, constables derive their name from a wedding of the two ancient names "cyng" and "staple," which signified to " hold of the King by the ancient custom of the realm."

Created by the " Statute of Winchester," their initial authority to represent the King in the "Hundred" "Franchise" and other small units of local government, sprang from Edward I. In due course their own inferior officials became known as petty constables.

The borsholder was a yet older office—listen to Lampard :

" By the ancient laws of the realm (before the coming of King William the Conqueror) it was ordained for the more sure keeping of the peace, and better repressing of thieves and robbers, that all free men should cast themselves into companies, by ten in each company, and that every one of those ten men of the company should be surety and pledge for the forthcoming of his fellows ; so that if any harm were done by any of those ten men against the peace, then the rest of the ten should be amerced" —which has been variously translated as " fined " or " soaked."

In the West Country "Tithings" was the title for each of these units of ten men—in Kent it was "Boroes." Every so often these tithings met in company with their nine fellow bands to discuss their current problems. The district from which the ten tithings were drawn was known as a " Hundred." At this assembly of the Hundred, a borsholder or tithing man represented, and spoke for, his nine co-members.

A primary role alloted to the seventeenth century constable and borsholder was the control of labour. Absenteeism and working to rule would have never been tolerated then. The craftsman needed no other spur than his craft, which was his pride, but the worker who disdained "work" received scant mercy.

The artizan normally stayed within the boundaries of his birth place, but no labourer could stir abroad without a pass. A soldier needed a testimonial to prove that he was no deserter, a ship-wrecked sailor that he was neither an escaped mutineer nor a beggar, a servant to prove that he or she were no runaway. All these testimonials had to be " marked " by the constable or borsholder.

Even if he stayed within his own town or parish the labourer was under constant supervision. His comings and goings were carefully watched, and if he lingered at a tavern during working hours he could be punished under the laws devised to control drunkenness. One hour was he allowed for a mid-day meal, and thereafter, no further taverning until his work was done.

The plight of the unemployed was less enviable—all too often they were classified as " sturdy rogues and vagabonds." No one was unemployable in this century when the term beggar covered anyone over the age of seven, and ranged through the entire scale of the theatrical profession to an outer fringe of quacks, soothsayers, and itinerant scholars.

The very existence of such folk depended on the temper of the constable, for it fell within his province to dispatch them to the House of Correction—where they would slave, if not with a will, most certainly to save the hide on their backs.

If bad weather threatened the harvest, borsholder or constable could raise a working party to save the crop—nor could any artizan refuse the summons. The shirker was well rewarded on such occasions. Two days and nights in the stocks irrespective of weather! Similar working parties were employed to repair the local highways.

The alehouse keeper was also a lawful prey for the constable or tithing man—more obviously for watering his wares, but also for turning away travellers without good cause. If any traveller, once admitted, was robbed at a tavern, a "hue and cry" had to be raised if the town or hundred wanted to escape communal fine. If the thief was caught, the goods were restored to their owner and no more said. If the thief escaped, two local justices assessed a fine which was charged on the district at large. The money so raised was used to compensate the victim. Fines charged on the hundred were subdivided among the tithings by the constable. Each tithing man assessed the members of his unit so that rich and poor suffered according to their respective means.

The town constable proceeded along similar lines, but neither he nor his rural counterpart stood any truck. While refusals to pay were common, they were futile, for the constable's men promptly invaded the recalcitrant's stockyard, seizing and selling the owner's prize bull ; they paid his share of the fine from the proceeds. This technique was not confined to criminal proceedings. Hundred, town and tithing all bore their share of the communal cost of maintaining highways, bridges and dykes. In fact, our general water and drainage rates may well owe their origin to the fines and assessments which were levied by the constable and borsholder.

The poor were maintained in the same way, and also the plague-ridden. Here the borsholder was an M.O.H. in some respects.

Disease presented two problems. That of financial relief was relatively simple, but the effective isolation of contagion was more difficult to achieve. Although contacts and plague suspects were rigorously confined to their homes, the temptation to break quarantine was inevitable. Anyone caught doing this was treated as a felon if shown to be suffering from plague. Neither delirium nor fever would serve as an excuse, nor would they save such a person from the rope. Even if the fugitive had escaped infection,

the borsholder and constable were required to hold him as a vagabond, to be suitably flogged and jailed.

The fever of religion also required watching, thus recusants had to be traced to their homes and kept under official observation, lest the peace be disturbed by their plotting.

Markets, fairs, victuals, weights and measures, all lay within their province. There is scarcely a department of local government, as we understand the term, which did not concern the constable and borsholder to some extent.

These few examples illustrate the many duties which the constable was called upon to perform. That he succeeded so well was probably due to the flexibility of his role, for—unlike his modern counterpart so hamstrung by regulations—the seventeenth century constable was the living example of the national genius for improvization.

RECESSION IN JUVENILE CRIME

By W. CLIFFORD

After the war the increase in juvenile delinquency was said to be an expected consequence of the social upheaval of war time, the absence of fathers in the services and of mothers at work during crucial periods of character development; the decline of moral standards and the overlap into peace of the inverted values of destruction and war economy; overcrowded schools and the shortage of teachers; the intensified housing problem and the anxieties of bringing up a family amongst in-laws; the re-distribution of employment and the unsettling prospect of national service; the increase in divorce and broken homes and the emotional stress of post-war adjustment. These are only some of the many and varied explanations based upon the after-effects of war.

Now barely nine years later there seems to be a decline in juvenile crime. The numerical curve is falling, the lists of juvenile courts are shorter and it has been possible to close a few remand homes and other institutions dealing with child offenders. The signs are encouraging but probably of more importance is the opportunity they offer to study the trends of juvenile delinquency.

When the figures were increasing there was feverish activity to investigate causes and formulate treatment. State and nation were aroused to an awareness of the problem. Special committees were formed and special emphasis placed on remedial and preventive measures. A decline now is an excellent opportunity to evaluate the results of the measures taken. It was necessary to investigate and explain the increase. It is surely equally necessary to explain the decrease.

Is it due to the receding memory of war ? Is it because families are back to normal or that the housing situation has improved ? This may be; but if so we may have to review a good deal that has been said about a child's character being formed in the first five years of life. There are many children today between 14 and 16 whose formative years were passed in the most disruptive period of war-time family life. Why should they be appearing in court less frequently than their older brothers and sisters. If it is because parents are now re-united then this fact may contain a valuable lesson. The effect of wholesome family life is important at all ages but this may mean that in the latent period from five to adolescence it can modify significantly the development of earlier years.

On the other hand many factors blamed for the increase may remain unchanged. Do fewer mothers go out to work ? Is the prospect of national service less unsettling ? Is divorce and the incidence of broken homes declining ? If not then we may perhaps give rather less weight to these as causative elements in delinquency.

There have been changes in the social scene in the past two or three years which may be significant in their effect on juvenile crime. Decent housing is enjoyed by many more families. Fewer of the non-essential goods are scarce and the social pressure of inflation has been less than before. In the light of events these and other social differences from the first four years of peace-time deserve closer study.

Then what of the view that juvenile crime is bred of emotional stress and insecurity arising out of the conditions of social life. Comparing the period of increase with the period of decrease in juvenile crime we need to see by what means emotional disturbance has either become less or has been expressed less in anti-social behaviour.

The importance of organized youth activities has frequently been noted as a preventive of crime. Have youth clubs increased or become more active in the last few years ? Have they now more importance in the community than they had before ? If so we have an encouraging confirmation of their effect on the social adjustment of youth.

Is there any difference now in the types of crime being committed ? Are gangs less prevalent than they were ? Have the age-groupings of delinquents shown any marked change? We need the answers to all such questions if we are to explain the fluctuation in juvenile crime.

The Gluecks in their study of 500 delinquents and 500 non-delinquents abstracted certain factors by which delinquency might sometimes be forecast. These could well be studied now as factors that might have changed over the years thus resulting in a decrease of juvenile offenders.

Finally, we might examine the success or failure of the measures we have been taking to combat delinquency amongst children. Does this present decline show that the probation system is proving more and more effective ? Has the incidence of success improved in borstals, approved schools and remand homes ? Have the attendance centres and detention centres of the 1948 Criminal Justice Act proved to be significant deterrents ? We have raised the school leaving age to 15 and reorganized the education system—is this part of the reason for the decrease ? Are parents able to deal with their problems better because of child guidance clinics or parent-teacher associations? Perhaps all these have played a part but we should try to assess the relative significance of each contribution if we are to know which to emphasize in future.

It is doubtful whether we will be able to obtain precise answers to any of these varied questions. Juvenile delinquency is not likely to admit of a simple explanation. But the same was also true of the increase of a few years ago and the present change of direction does give us the chance to investigate the validity of the theories advanced at that time. The statisticians have recorded the change in the social significance of juvenile crime. Now it is for the sociologists, social scientists and those dealing with actual cases of delinquency to attempt an explanation of the change.

TRUSTEE SECURITIES

Local authorities are important participants in the money market, both as borrowers and lenders. In each role they are vitally interested in that body of securities designated as suitable for holding by trust funds.

The enlargement of the kinds of funds from which the borrower may select his capital cash requirements brings into prominence once again the anomalous position of different local authorities with regard to the designation of their mortgages as trustee investments. The existing law gives trustee status to any local bonds issued under the Housing (Additional Powers) Act, 1919, and the Housing Act, 1936, and mortgages granted after December 23, 1919, under the authority of any Act or provisional order by a local authority (including a county council) which is authorized to issue local bonds under the 1919 or 1936 Acts. Thus we have the curious position that only a very few county councils are able to issue mortgages which are regarded as trustee securities but over 100 rural district councils are so empowered, as well as some hundreds of urban district and borough councils. Some county councils now have taken power through local Acts to issue bonds but this does not permit their mortgages to rank as trustee investments. In the eyes of many influential lenders the lack of trustee status by a would-be borrower is a grave handicap. It is assumed by such lenders that there is a sound reason underlying the division of local authority mortgages into trustee and non-trustee, for instance, that the security offered by the non-trustee authority is less good, and on this assumption and for other reasons such as the much smaller total of funds available for investment in other than trustee securities non-trustee authorities may well find borrowing more difficult and more expensive. Our example shows the present position to be unsound and indeed absurd. Nevertheless, Treasury-advised Governments have in the past refused to recommend the hall-marking of any new securities : we cannot say whether this action sprang from a mistaken notion that thereby trustee investors and trust funds were being safeguarded or from the thought that limitation of the range meant higher prices for the favoured stocks and lower interest rates. (British Government stocks constitute over 50 *per cent.* of the nominal value of those dealt in on the stock exchanges.)

Today, however, there are signs that views are changing : if it is too much to expect that action is imminent let us at least hope that it will not be too long delayed. At the same time another illogicality, noted among others by the Nathan Committee,* should be put right. A trustee is not able to purchase even those local authority stocks otherwise authorized at a price exceeding 15 *per cent.* above par or at any premium whatever if the stocks are redeemable in less than 15 years of the date of purchase. On the other hand British Government stocks, London County Council stocks and others, are authorized investments although standing at a premium and whatever the date for redemption.

While some local authorities as borrowers suffer these handicaps all are restricted as lenders. It may seem odd, at first sight, that in quite a number of authorities the totals of investments held on the one hand and of loans borrowed on the other correspond quite closely : there are nevertheless good reasons for this position. These we do not propose to discuss in detail beyond mentioning that one most important cause has been, and still is to some extent, the differing interest rates obtaining for borrowing and lending by any particular local authority under given circumstances. Investment is inevitable under certain circumstances and if the money available is placed outside the authority's own funds it can only be used to buy trustee securities, which have certain serious defects, particularly as a source of income out of which pensions of local authority officers are to be paid. These were noted by the Nathan Committee who pointed out that all the stocks in which investment is now authorized (with the exception of stock of the Bank of Ireland) are " money stocks," that is to say, they confer a right to a fixed income and (unless irredeemable) a fixed capital sum on redemption. But during the last 50 years far reaching changes in the world have greatly affected the relative security of different classes of investments : on a long view inflation is the natural tendency of currencies but the process has greatly accelerated over the past 50 years. The restriction of trustee investment to fixed money stocks, intended as a safeguard, has thus become a source of danger. The point made is well illustrated if we compare vital figures of the recent past with the present.

Year	*Index of Retail Prices*	*Rates of Wages*	*Value of £100*
			£
1938	100	100	100
1945	148	151	65
1950	185	186	52
1954 (July)	236	240	41

The only safeguard against inflation is to own real property instead of paper. After commenting " that no prudent business man would adopt the pattern of investment to which trustees are compelled to adhere " the Nathan Committee go on to recommend that while the principle of trustee investments should be preserved the range should be extended to comprise debentures and the stocks and shares of financial, industrial and commercial companies quoted on the London Stock Exchange. Safeguards to be applied could take the following form :

(*a*) a limitation on the proportion of the total fund which could be invested outside gilt-edge stocks—perhaps 50 *per cent.* ;

(*b*) a limitation to companies which have paid a dividend on their equity capital of not less than four *per cent.* in each of the past, say, 10 years ;

(*c*) a limitation of investment to stocks and shares of a class issued to the nominal value of not less than £1 million, and which are quoted on the Stock Exchange, London, so that a reasonable market should be available to permit of ready realization of the investment ;

(*d*) a limitation regarding debentures that they should be in the nature of prior lien debentures with a prohibition on any charge ranking in priority ; and as regards preference shares that no debenture or other preference shares should be issued with priority.

It is also recommended that express power should be given to use funds in the acquisition of land.

* Report of the Committee on the Law and Practice relating to Charitable Trusts. Cmd. 8710, December, 1952

The prospect of contemplating a Superannuation Fund Balance Sheet showing among the investments substantial holdings of shares of commercial undertakings may well startle some of us, particularly if we have not for some time critically examined the foundations of our beliefs. Even more startling would be a comparison of the present value of, say, £250,000 invested in 1946 in :

(*a*) Government stocks such as 2½ *per cent.* Treasury 1975 or after.

(*b*) A selection of the leading industrial shares.

Such an investment under (*a*) would now realize about £155,000, but under (*b*) something over £300,000. Couple this with realization of the tremendous importance of the interest rate in determining the solvency of superannuation funds, which is illustrated by the following calculation showing capital sums produced by a contribution of 10s. per week over 40 years at varying rates of interest :

	£
2½ *per cent.*	1,775
3 ,, ,, ...	1,990
3½ ,, ,, ...	2,237
4 ,, ,, ...	2,520
4½ ,, ,, ...	2,845
5 ,, ,, ...	3,219

It will be noted that one *per cent.* difference between three and four *per cent.* gives an increase of as much as 27 *per cent.* in the capital sum available at the end of the term.

We believe that the subject is worth pursuing vigorously by the local authority associations. We are confident that the application of the wisdom of council members and the skill of their financial advisers to an enlarged field of investment of the kind suggested would do more, and do it more soundly, towards reduction of rate borne deficiency payments to superannuation funds than any proposal of the Bedfordshire kind which accepts as satisfactory something less than eventual solvency.

REDEVELOPMENT AREAS—GRANT CLAIMS

[CONTRIBUTED]

The form of grant claim (G.93) issued by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in connexion with expenditure incurred in the acquisition and clearing of land for redevelopment under s. 93 of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, is a complicated affair ; in the interests of saving man-power, a more simple form of claim could have been devised.

In addition to the grant claim proper there are three schedules to be completed, and a statement (sch. Z) showing the computation of loan charges. It will be remembered that the grant is based on a memorandum account called " Redevelopment Capital Account," and the grant claim summarizes the transactions on this account. In order to calculate the loan charges, a statement is required of the balances outstanding at the end of each calendar quarter, and the loan charges are worked out on the average balance for the year. A misleading statement is given in the notes on the form to the effect that " for the year in which grant commences the first balance to be entered . . . should be that at the end of the first quarter after the commencing date for grant." One would have thought that this meant that, if the grant period commenced on, say, August 5, the first balance would be as at December 31. Apparently this is not so, the first balance being that at September 30. If the latter interpretation is correct the note would have been much more explicit if it had read " the first balance to be entered should be that at the end of the quarter in which the grant period commenced."

The loan charges are to be calculated on a notional basis, paying due regard to the changes in the Public Works Loan Board rates of interest during the period over which the expenditure has been incurred. For example, if a redevelopment scheme started in October, 1948, and finished in December, 1953, there would be no less than four different rates of interest to take into account. The grant form provides for the expenditure since the commencement to be split up over the periods January 3, 1948, to November 9, 1951 ; November 10, 1951 to February 8, 1952 ; February 9, 1952, to October 19, 1953 ; and from October 20, 1953. Since then there has been a further change in the rates operating from June 4, 1954.

In the example chosen, the notional loan charges would be worked out by making four calculations, and adding the results together. Each calculation consists of the appropriate expenditure in the " interest period," divided by total expenditure to the end of the year of claim, multiplied by the average balance, and further multiplied by the appropriate rate of interest converted to a 60-year annuity percentage. In the first year of grant, a further calculation is necessary to ascertain the grant for the broken period, the amount being calculated by taking the number of days from the commencement of the grant period to the end of the year, dividing by the number of days in the year, and multiplying by the grant for the full year.

Such an exact calculation appears to be unnecessary and fallacious, having regard to the nature of the grant principles. The whole basis of the grant (that is, the quarterly balances on the Redevelopment Capital Account) is purely arbitrary, as the only exact basis would be a daily balance. Furthermore, Public Works Loan Board rates are not necessarily the actual rates being paid by the claiming authority, because the authority may be borrowing elsewhere, or utilizing internal funds. The grant claim would have been much more simple to compile, and the result just as fair, if the Ministry had laid down average rates for each financial year.

The splitting of expenditure over broken periods might cause much additional labour, and in fact it may not always be apparent into which period the expenditure should be placed. The Town and Country Planning (Grants) Regulations, 1950, and the " Explanatory Memorandum " issued in connexion therewith do not give any precise guidance as to whether the quarterly balances are to be taken on a " receipts and payments " basis or an " income and expenditure " basis. If it is considered that the expenditure in connexion with the purchase of sites under a compulsory purchase order is incurred as from the vesting date, then it might be contended that the whole of the purchase moneys should be debited to the Redevelopment Capital Account on the vesting date. If, however, the account is written up on a " receipts and payments " basis, the date of the debit should be the date of payment for each site. In the case of site clearance works further complications arise. If the work has been done by a contractor there are three possible dates for the debits to the account—(*a*) date of order, (*b*) date of completion of work (or parts), and (*c*) date of payment. If the work has been done by direct labour, it is questionable whether the correct dates for charging the wages will be the dates on which the pay-week ends or the dates of payment.

No doubt amicable arrangements will be made for the settlement of claims for grant without further regulations being made, but the above observations will serve to show that any attempt to preserve accuracy in the computation of grant would be superfluous, if not impossible.

W.S.E.

EARLY LEAVING IN THE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

By R. E. C. JEWELL

An interesting and stimulating report of an inquiry into "Early Leaving" was recently published by the Central Advisory Council for Education (England).[1] The report disclosed that about 10,000 boys and 7,000 girls completed advanced courses in English grammar schools in 1953, but that about 5,000 more boys and 5,000 more girls could very well have done so if they had stayed longer at school. In order to counteract this trend, the council recommends, *inter alia*, that :

(i) family allowances should be paid in respect of all children still at school up to any age

(ii) local education authorities should be encouraged to increase their maintenance allowances immediately (and in some cases drastically), to revise them periodically, to base them on net income and to pay them on a sliding scale, increasing with age

(iii) facilities for homework should be offered in libraries, schools and youth clubs.

The recommendation in respect of family allowances is not new and has been strongly canvassed at recent conferences of teachers' organizations. If implemented, it would remedy a state of affairs regarded as palpably unjust by many parents (including some widows) struggling to keep their children at school beyond the statutory school-leaving age. The comments of the council on the inadequacy of the existing arrangements are instructive and deserve quotation :

"In fact the choice of 16 as the maximum age seems to us not only arbitrary but, from the educational point of view, most unfortunate, as it gives the impression that the State takes for granted a normal leaving age of 16 for those who stay at school beyond 15. A sounder principle is embodied in income tax law, under which a parent who pays income tax is granted a tax-free allowance for any child who is receiving full-time education."

The revision of maintenance allowance scales would be a step forward even more important than the recommendation on family allowances. Many local education authorities have hardly increased their scales since the new scheme of maintenance allowances was introduced immediately after the war as a result of the Education Act, 1944. A standardization of scales as between authorities might also be desirable. At present the maximum grant payable is in the region of £60 *per annum*, and the parental income has to be very low indeed to qualify for such a grant.[2] Allowances are made for other dependent children in the assessment of grants but, generally speaking, a married man with two children and an income of only £550 *per annum*, would not be eligible for a maintenance grant for either of his children. It is questionable whether it would be really necessary to base maintenance allowances on net income, as proposed in the report. This would lead to administrative complications, since presumably it would then be necessary to make allowances for such items as taxation, superannuation, national insurance and trades union contributions. It is indeed difficult to see where the line would be drawn ; for example, would the cost of travelling to work qualify for deduction from gross income ? If maintenance allowances were increased sufficiently, surely it would not matter that gross income should continue to be the basis of assessments as at present. On the other hand, the proposal that maintenance allowances should be paid on a sliding scale, increasing with age, is to be welcomed. This is already done by a few authorities ; for example, in one county borough there are different scales at the ages of 15, 16 and 17 and it is anticipated that a certain county council will shortly follow suit. In this way the poorer parents who make a real effort to keep their children at school, obtain some material encouragement.

The third main recommendation concerns facilities for homework in libraries, schools and youth clubs. This is an admirable suggestion and is already practised in some local education authority schools, at any rate. Many libraries cater specially for children, with junior libraries and extra facilities and there is often a happy co-operation between the library and education authorities, which are of course identical in many instances. Youth clubs could probably also assist in the matter of homework, which is a very big problem where the home background is not all that could be desired. There is a popular misconception that homework is set only in secondary grammar schools but this is not nowadays the case, for it may also be required of some pupils attending secondary technical or modern schools.

Reference has already been made to the question of home background and this is undoubtedly a potent factor influencing early school-leaving in many cases. Lack of encouragement at home and lack of proper facilities for study and homework in the home may waste a grammar or technical school place. It is interesting that the council reports that the children of professional fathers tend to improve, both in academic performance and capacity, and that the children of unskilled fathers tend to deteriorate, whatever the level of performance at the entrance examination. This is a sociological factor of the utmost importance but its logical implications are probably outside the scope of this article. Suffice it to say that housing and slum-clearance schemes can have a vital effect on educational development in this country. Sub-standard conditions of housing generally, although not always, go hand in hand with poverty and, as the report says : "it is obvious that there are strong financial inducements to withdraw boys and girls from school before the age of 18." If, therefore, the results of the current housing drive could be linked with the implementation of the council's recommendations on family allowances and maintenance allowance scales, what an alleviation of the problem of early leavers there might be !

Let us now turn our attention to some of the possible solutions rejected by the council, for example the general adoption of "school-life agreements," binding under penalty on the parents. It is submitted with respect that this would be a valuable reform in the educational system of our country. At present many places at grammar and technical schools are virtually wasted owing to the absence of any positive sanction. When a child is admitted to a "selective" school in the first instance, the parents undertake to keep him at school "until the end of the course." This is done, in most cases, by means of a "Form of Undertaking" which has no legal force and provides for no penalty. Consequently, when the parent wishes to withdraw the child on the attainment of the statutory school-leaving age of 15, he can defy the headmaster or headmistress with impunity. The headteacher can of course refuse to give a testimonial and the authority can withhold the facilities of its employment bureau, but these are sanctions without teeth where

[1] Stationery Office, 3*s*. 6*d*.

[2] £150 *per annum*.

employment has already been obtained or promised. Premature leavers thus provide one of the most frustrating occupations of teachers and administrators. Their function is purely advisory or persuasive, since they have no power to prevent any child from leaving any school on attaining the statutory school-leaving age. It is also deplorable that the selfish outlook of the parents and children concerned has deprived other children of places in "selective" schools owing to dishonesty at the first interview with the headteacher. It should be remarked in passing that some authorities in the north of England do have enforceable "school-life agreements" with penalties.

Another method rejected in the report is a system of sixth-form scholarships. This would presumably be difficult to administer, both from the point of view of the schools and of the education offices. It might however be interpolated at this stage that an interesting experiment will shortly be launched in the county borough of Croydon. Arrangements are afoot to assemble the sixth forms of Croydon's grammar schools in a "Junior College" to be staffed and administered by the authority. If this experiment proves successful and is eventually copied by other local education authorities, a system of sixth-form scholarships might well appear more feasible.

The problem of early leaving poses an interesting problem for the future: will the grammar schools or the technical schools be more successful in retaining their pupils until the end of the courses provided? There has been a general trend throughout the country for premature leaving from grammar schools to increase. It is all the more remarkable therefore that the following passage should have appeared in "Education in Kent, 1948–53":

"It might have been expected . . . that Kent might have been affected to some degree by the tendency, very much on the increase in some parts of the country, for pupils to leave without completing their "course"—a phrase not perhaps so clearly defined now with the disappearance of the school certificate. This has not happened, sixth form numbers having, in fact, increased slightly throughout the period, and most grammar schools in Kent have been scarcely affected by the malady of early leaving which appears to be a matter of some concern in many parts of the country."

This happy state of affairs is certainly not reflected in the adjacent counties of London and Middlesex, and is indeed an exception to the national position. It should be borne in mind that most grammar schools offer courses up to the age of 18 and parents are therefore expected to keep their children at grammar schools for an additional three years. The secondary technical schools, on the other hand, appear to offer something more concrete and in this materialistic age they may ultimately have less difficulty with premature leavers. The position in Kent is interesting and perhaps in this respect more representative. There the secondary technical schools afford a larger proportion of the total selective secondary provision than is found in any other county authority—larger also than in all but a very few county boroughs. It should be borne in mind that in Kent, as in most local education authorities, the age of admission to secondary technical schools is 13 and the pupils are therefore transferred from other types of secondary school. It is reported that girls who might have left at 15 are in fact staying on in full-time education until 17 or 18 and leaving qualified to enter such careers as nursing, teaching or catering. "Education in Kent, 1948–53" continues: "There can be no doubt that, whatever educational theorists may say, and however urgently they may demonstrate that there can really be no place for technical secondary schools, they are in fact filling a real need in Kent. They have won the confidence of parents and have as little difficulty as the Kent grammar schools in retaining a large number of their pupils for more advanced work qualifying for professions which are of vital concern to the community. Moreover they have been no more troubled than the grammar schools with the problem of early leavers."

The situation in the technical schools in Kent is reflected to a certain extent in London where, however, admission at the age of 11 obtains in some technical schools, as well as transfers at the age of 13. It is thought that the provision of a definite goal, for example the preliminary examinations necessary in the professions of architect and surveyor, has some bearing on the reduction of early leaving from technical schools. How, then, can the grammar schools make up the leeway? At present most grammar schools have careers masters who have little difficulty in advising pupils and eventually placing them in suitable posts. Yet the technical schools seem to be more successful in restraining their pupils from the lure of easy money at the age of 15. It is true that we are moving into a technological age but it would be regrettable if the academic disciplines could not hold their own. Grammar school sixth formers are, after all, potential university graduates and it would be tragic if the depletion in their numbers were to continue at the present rate. The Central Advisory Council states that nearly 3,000 boys and over 1,000 girls who could have taken advanced courses in mathematics and science were not doing so. In view of the national shortage of scientists (and incidentally of science teachers), that is a grave indictment. Mention could perhaps here be made on the need for co-ordination between grammar school sixth forms and universities, with particular reference to university entrance requirements.

What, then, is the solution? The new Minister of Education, who has given the rural authorities new heart and shown a keen awareness of the content of education, has a golden opportunity of providing it. Let him provide the bread-and-butter element by adopting the Central Advisory Council's recommendations on maintenance allowances as a matter of urgency. Let him also persuade his colleague the Chancellor of the Exchequer, who is incidentally a good friend of education, to implement the proposals on family allowances. With the introduction of these essential financial aids and a new spirit in educational policy as a whole, the disastrous drift from the secondary schools might well be halted.

ADDITIONS TO COMMISSIONS

BRADFORD CITY

Mrs. Marjorie Coddington, 1, Oak Villas, Bradford 8.
Mrs. Ruth Beswick, 34, Leamington Street, Bradford 9.
Lady Hill, Apperley Grange, Rawdon, nr. Leeds.
Mrs. Georgina Kilford, 7, Melbourne Terrace, Bradford.
Ernest Marriott, 2, Toller Drive, Bradford 9.
Donald Frank Pilley, Parkfield, Thackley, Bradford.
Norman Hartley Shaw, 14, Park Drive, Bradford.
Oswald Michael Stroud, Sefton Lodge, Park Drive, Bradford.
John William Taylor, 159, Cooper Lane, Bradford.

DONCASTER BOROUGH

Mrs. Winifred Kathleen Jane Bruce, 173, Thorne Road, Doncaster.
Ernest Elland, 24, Crossways, Wheatley Hills, Doncaster.
Harry Kinnear, 27, St. Wilfrids Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster.
Mrs. Doris Patricia McEwen, 10, The Oval, Bessacarr, Doncaster.
Mrs. Winifred Mary Liversidge, 44, Argyll Avenue, Intake, Doncaster.
Ernest Frederick Mitchell, 40, Town Moor Avenue, Doncaster.
Bernard James Quick, 16, St. Eric's Road, Bessacarr, Doncaster.
Horace Rowley, 67, Welbeck Road, Doncaster.
Claud Leslie Alfred Stokes, 54, Woodhouse Road, Doncaster.
Eric Burnett Tyler, 152, Thorne Road, Doncaster.

WEST SUSSEX COUNTY

Harold John Brown, M.C., Weald Chase, Cuckfield, Sussex.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION

WALSALL PROBATION REPORT

The same indication to be found in other reports that crime has diminished during the last year or two appears in the report for 1954 of the probation committee for the county borough of Walsall. It is stated, however, that the decrease is mainly among juveniles. In fact, says the report, we can reflect now that despite all the publicity given to the increase in juvenile crime during the past few years, the increase in adult crime has been more marked at all times. Although the number of probation cases has decreased, there has been no similar decrease in matrimonial work, which is described as "often a thankless, arduous and unsatisfying task."

Commenting on the fact that two probation orders were discharged before the period had expired, the report says: "We think it worthy to note these cases as enough is heard all too often of cases which end unsatisfactorily. In proper cases, after due and careful consideration by the probation officer concerned, the probation committee and the court, it is all to the good that a probationer who has made outstanding progress should be encouraged by being discharged from carrying out the often burdensome (to him) requirements of the order. It is as well for probationers and others to know that the committee and the courts have due regard for good behaviour as well as for unsatisfactory behaviour."

COUNTY BOROUGH OF BLACKBURN POLICE REPORT FOR 1954

This force has an authorized establishment of 183, but the actual strength at December 31, 1954, was only 154. During the year nine new recruits joined the force, but there were 19 resignations, a net loss of 10. We note that in the traffic department and motor patrol section there are included a sergeant and two constables who are fully qualified motor mechanics and fitters, and who are responsible for the general maintenance and repairing of police vehicles. Their expert knowledge makes them valuable witnesses when the question of the mechanical condition of vehicles is in question.

The report deals with the work in hand at a number of points in the borough which should improve road conditions and help to reduce the number of accidents. There is a committee for co-ordinating all road works which is attended by representatives of all public services and by the police, who thus receive advance information of proposed work and can make the necessary traffic arrangements. There seems to be room for more such co-ordination in other places, where we have noticed a magnificent road surface laid down, and then torn up in patches quite shortly afterwards.

The fine service given by special constables throughout the country is commented on also in Blackburn, where the force includes 25 members of the mechanized section who provide their own cars for police duty without charge to the police authority.

For police work the value of the two-way wireless system is noted, and it is stated that it is simple to operate, and little if any training is required. Details are given of crime figures. Of indictable offences known to the police 475 out of 642 were detected during the year, representing 73·99 *per cent.*, and improvement on the 1953 figure of 67·36 *per cent.* It is regretted that, compared with 1953, there was an increase from 92 to 113 in the number of juvenile offenders. They were responsible for 24·21 *per cent.* of the detected crime during 1954. We are somewhat mystified by the reference under "non-indictable offences" to 10 persons who were "bound over without probation," but it may be that it means they were bound over to keep the peace or to be of good behaviour, and that the words "without probation" are misleading.

Unnecessary addition to police work was provided by the persons responsible for leaving a total of 1,321 premises insecure at night. It is perhaps a pity that some small charge cannot be made for police services of this kind, to make people more mindful of their responsibilities.

FIRE SERVICE STATISTICS, 1953/54

We have received a copy of this useful annual return of costs and other data relating to the fire service, published jointly by the Society of County Treasurers and the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants.

As we have pointed out previously, because of the fact that fire brigade strengths are determined by the widely differing fire risks of the component parts of the areas of fire authorities, the return by itself cannot be used to make worthwhile comparisons of cost between authorities. This fact was referred to by Mr. T. Watson, A.S.A.A., F.I.M.T.A., county treasurer of Derbyshire and president of the Society of County Treasurers in a paper which he read to the Chief Fire Officers' Association in September last. He stated that although they used population as a yardstick the treasurers themselves were somewhat critical of it, as it was quite obviously not an exact measure of an authority's need for fire cover. Nevertheless, he said, it was probably the best available yardstick and the return would serve its purpose and justify its continuance if it acted as a signpost to put committees, chief fire officers and treasurers on inquiry where costs appeared to be abnormal.

In his address Mr. Watson pointed out that there were four main points which would enable the exercise of an effective control over expenditure on pay and associated charges (which together account for about two-thirds of the total cost of the fire service). These were rates of pay, fire risk gradings, types of duty system, and allocation of fire establishments between different grades. Rates of pay are fixed by the Home Secretary after receiving advice from the National Joint Councils and accordingly there is no scope for local control in this case. The grading of fire establishments, Mr. Watson thought, being a legacy from the National Fire Service, might usefully be reviewed. The question of duty systems is a vexed one, and we trust that the discussions now proceeding will result in a satisfactory settlement: certainly there are possibilities of substantial economies. With regard to fire risk categories and standards of cover the Select Committee on Estimates in their report on the fire services, published in June, 1954, stated that they were convinced that a complete review was required, the fire risk categories having remained unaltered since the return of the fire service to local authorities in 1948.

In the light of these comments the figures of fires attended in relation to personnel are interesting; we quote a few examples:

Authority	*Number of Separate Fire Stations*	*Number of Calls received in 12 months**	*Personnel*	
			Whole-Time	*Part-Time*
Durham	24	1128	335	224
Hereford	13	282	44	124
Monmouth ..	17	362	100	232
Barrow-in-Furness ..	1	129	42	5
Burton-upon-Trent	1	53	39	10
Eastbourne ..	1	108	40	11
Hastings	2	108	46	12
Leeds	5	836	222	—

* Excluding chimney fires and false alarms.

Cost of the service falling on rates and grants increased in 1953/54 to £17,360,000, equal to £394 per 1,000 population.

ELDERLY SICK

Mr. Hector Hughes initiated a short debate in the House of Commons recently in which he urged the Government to take immediate steps to increase, improve and extend the provisions which now exist for the elderly sick. It was unfortunate that owing to shortage of time the Government did not have an opportunity of replying and stating their views. Mr. Hughes expressed the view, for which there is considerable support, that hospital accommodation would be adequate, quantitatively at least, in most areas, if the local health authorities developed their preventive services and domiciliary care services to the full. In particular he stressed the importance of a full service of health visitors. There should also, in his opinion, be improvements in the district nursing services, the home help service, assistance by relatives, interchange of information between hospital and local authority staffs, the after care of those discharged from hospitals, and hostels for the frail. He thought one of the best ways to keep people out of hospital was through the health visitor service. In expressing his views on this matter he went further, however, than many of those who are concerned in the problem of the care of the aged would go. For instance, he suggested that it was one of the functions of the health visitor "to re-awaken the interests of the middle-aged women who have hitherto been preoccupied with their children, and who sometimes tend to drift into premature old age when the children no longer need care." He said the health visitor "fosters the development of outside interests and leisure activities as an armour against the dreariness of old age." This seems to be a matter which is well in the sphere of voluntary visitors. Unfortunately there is at present a shortage of health visitors and the extension of their activities to the extent suggested by Mr. Hughes would be impossible without a considerable increase in recruitment. With the shortage of nurses in

other spheres it may be questionable whether it would be right to endeavour to attract more nurses into this field just to do work which might be done by persons less qualified, such as home helps, or by voluntary workers. Mr. Hughes suggested that the salary and promotion prospects of health visitors should be improved to bring them into line with the conditions of lecturers in teacher-training colleges and with those holding senior appointments in hospital.

Dr. Somerville Hastings dealt with the matter from a rather different angle and suggested the importance of improving the services for finding out when old people, particularly those living alone, are ill and need help. He mentioned the need for more " preventive clinics " to enable old people to keep out of hospital. In his view the most important way to keep old people healthy is to keep them busy and to give them things to occupy their minds and their muscles. On housing he asked " would it not be possible to give preference in the allocation of ground floor flats to old people who have daughters or grand-daughters living near ? " As to the need for improving the local health services he stressed that although these are costly it is infinitely cheaper to the community than taking an old person into an expensive hospital and the old person is happier and is much more likely to benefit by treatment at home.

LAW AND PENALTIES IN MAGISTERIAL AND OTHER COURTS

No. 20.

A PLA PROSECUTION

A very unusual case was heard at the Mansion House Justice Room in the City of London on February 14 last, when a man appeared on a warrant (having previously ignored the summons) charged with omitting to pay port rates in respect of goods exported from the Port of London contrary to s. 88 of the Port of London (Consolidation) Act, 1920.

For the prosecution it was stated that the defendant shipped from a wharf at Dagenham to Ghent, four second-hand buses, 14 concrete mixers, 10 tractors, two cultivators, one scraper and tractor equipment, and had omitted to pay the port rates of £13 16*s.* 7*d.* in respect of the goods. The defendant had failed to lodge with the authority, in accordance with the provisions of s. 25 of the Act, a Bill containing full particulars of the goods exported and the port rates payable thereon, but his shipping and chartering agents had delivered to the authority in accordance with s. 29 of the Act a transcript of the manifest of the goods exported, and it was upon this that the prosecution relied as evidence of the export of the goods in question.

The defendant, who pleaded guilty, said that he thought he had shipped from a wharf which was independent of the PLA and not subject to their rates. He was ordered to pay the rates of £13 16*s.* 7*d.*, damages of the same amount, a fine of £2 and £3 3*s.* costs. The defendant, on being sentenced, is reported to have said " This is the last time I shall export out of London. You are chasing a lot of ships away."

COMMENT

Mr. R. F. Gingell, a solicitor in the employ of the Authority who prosecuted, told the court that it was believed that it was the first time that the Authority had taken proceedings in a magistrates' court to recover port dues.

Port rates are part of the revenue of the Authority and ss. 13 and 15 of the Act authorize the Authority to fix port rates on all goods imported into the port of London or exported subject to certain exceptions set out in the Act. By s. 15 it is enacted that the rates to be fixed are not to exceed the rates specified in the schedule to the Port of London (Port Rates on Goods) Provisional Order Act, 1910. The schedule to this order was superseded by the Port of London (Various Powers) Act, 1932, as increased by 200 *per cent.* by the Port of London Act, 1950.

Section 88 (1) of the Act under which the Authority prosecuted provides that if the owner of any goods exported out of the Port of London fails to pay any port rates payable in respect of such goods, he shall be liable to pay to the Authority by way of damages in addition to such rates, a sum equal to the rates which he has omitted to pay or attempted to evade, and also to be liable to pay by way of penalty a sum not exceeding £10.

By s. 458 of the Act it is enacted that offences against the Act and all penalties, forfeitures, costs, damages, compensation and expenses imposed or recoverable under the Act may be prosecuted and recovered in a summary manner. By a proviso all costs and expenses except such as are recoverable along with a penalty, are not to be recovered as penalties but may be recovered summarily as civil debts.

Mr. C. G. Peyton, LL.B., clerk to the Lord Mayor, to whom, with Mr. R. F. Gingell who prosecuted, the writer is greatly indebted for information in regard to this case, points out that the Act does not in terms give power to the Authority to recover the port rates summarily and that it might be said that s. 88 could be read as leaving the liability to pay port rates untouched and as establishing only a liability to pay a sum by way of damages, a sum equal to the port rates. The court did not take that view and was also of the opinion that the damages were liquidated by the statute and did not fall to be assessed by the court.

Mr. Peyton further points out that the Harbours, Docks and Piers Clauses Act, 1847, can by ss. 1 and 5 of it be incorporated with a local Act, and the Port of London (Consolidation) Act does incorporate one or two sections of it but not sections concerning port rates. There are, however, many long schedules setting out parts of former Acts relating to docks and wharves of the Port of London which parts were incorporated with the 1920 Act and in one of the incorporated parts of a former Act was a section to the effect that " the Harbour, Docks and Piers Clauses Act, 1847, is incorporated with this Act so far as may be necessary for the purposes of this Act." Had the prosecution desired to avail themselves of the provisions of the 1847 Act, it might have been a nice point for argument to what extent the 1847 Act was in fact, by virtue of this wording, to be read as one with the Port of London (Consolidation) Act.

The reason for the case being heard in the city is because the rates were payable at PLA's head office in the city. R.L.H.

No. 21.

A SUCCESSFUL SUBMISSION

A man appeared at Leek magistrates' court on February 12 last charged, *inter alia*, with being found in a certain garage in the occupation of AB for a certain unlawful purpose, namely to commit a felony therein contrary to s. 4 of the Vagrancy Act, 1824.

For the prosecution, evidence was given that the defendant was found by a police officer in a garage attached to a certain hotel. The garage was without doors or window panes, but was fitted with electric light which at the material time was turned on and which first attracted the police officer's attention. The defendant was found lying on the floor of the garage allegedly feigning sleep.

The defendant pleaded not guilty to the charge and Mr. R. F. Rigby, solicitor, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, who defended, submitted on his behalf that the charge was both technically and in substance wrong. Mr. Rigby said that the word " garage " was not introduced into the English language until the year 1902, and that it did not in fact appear in the 1903 edition of the *Oxford English Dictionary*. He went on to state that the words of the section referred to " any dwelling-house, warehouse, coach-house, stable or outhouse, or in any enclosed garden or area "—the word garage not being mentioned. In support of his submission that the words of the Act must be adhered to, defending solicitor quoted the case of *Knott* v. *Blackburn* (1944) 108 J.P. 19, and he asked the magistrates to find that the word " garage " used alone did not come within the meaning of the section and to dismiss the charge.

The case was dismissed.

COMMENT

The offence charged in this case, one of the many offences included in s. 4 of the Vagrancy Act, 1824, has been the subject of many judicial decisions, but the writer has been unable to find any direct authority upon the point at issue here. On the one hand there appears to be little material distinction between the coach-house or stable of 1824 and the garage of 1955, and indeed, many are the cars which night by night are parked in buildings formerly used as stables or coach-houses; on the other hand as Viscount Caldecote, C.J., pointed out in *Knott* v. *Blackburn*, *supra*, the section under which the prosecution was launched in this case is a penal one, and it is therefore right that it should be construed strictly. *Knott* v. *Blackburn* itself provides an illustration of the strict manner in which the Court construes the provisions of the section, for it will be recalled that in that case Blackburn was found in an enclosed area, namely railway sidings. The sidings were fenced so as to make them as secure as possible against trespassers and to indicate that they were private property, and they formed part of a much larger area which was enclosed on

all sides. The Divisional Court held, without hesitation, that railway sidings cannot constitute an " area " within the meaning of this part of the section.

(The writer is indebted to Mr. John Rowley, of Newcastle-under-Lyme, whose principal was defending solicitor, for information in regard to this case.) R.L.H.

PENALTIES

Hereford—January, 1955. Unlawfully wearing medal ribbons to which he was not entitled. Fined £5. Defendant, a 24 year old journalist, was said by his advocate to be a very foolish and very conceited young man.

Oxford Juvenile Court—January, 1955. (1) Dangerous driving. (2) Driving while uninsured. (3) Driving while under 16. (1) Fined £2. (2) Fined 10*s*. (3) Fined 10*s*. To pay £1 1*s*. 3*d*. costs and disqualified from driving for 12 months. Defendant, a 13 year old boy, drove a two-and-a-half-ton lorry in a street crowded with Christmas shoppers and collided with three parked lorries.

Llansawel—February, 1955. Selling milk containing added water. Fined £10. Fifteen *per cent*. added water was found in milk. The bench accepted that defendant had no guilty intent.

Newcastle—February, 1955. Failing to report to the probation officer. Fined £5. Defendant, a man of 22, said he had been working overtime.

Chesham—February, 1955. Using wireless sets without licences—five defendants. Fines imposed ranging from £4 to £2, each defendant to pay half a guinea costs. The defendants, servicemen, ranging from a lieutenant-colonel to a lance-corporal, all had wireless sets in married quarters. A corporal told a Post Office inspector that the defendants were under the impression that there was no need to have licences for sets installed in military establishments.

Norwich—February, 1955. (1) Failing to stop a car on being so required by a school crossing patrol. (2) Driving without reasonable consideration. (1) Fined £5. (2) Fined £2.

CORRESPONDENCE

The Editor,
Justice of the Peace and
Local Government Review.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your article at 119 J.P.N. 111, headed " Evidence Act, 1938: A person ' not interested ',' " don't these provisions apply to *Civil* proceedings only? If I am right, perhaps a note to this effect in your next issue might be helpful.

Yours faithfully,
C. H. W. MESSER.

69 The Terrace,
Torquay.

[We agree.—*Ed., J.P. and L.G.R.*]

The Editor,
Justice of the Peace and
Local Government Review.

DEAR SIR,

OBSCENE PUBLICATIONS

Allow me to express my appreciation of the series of informative and balanced articles entitled " Obscene Publications " concluded in your issue of December 25. The subject has received my rather close attention for about 20 years and a few remarks by way of comment and supplement may be of interest.

Your suggestion that evidence should be heard on the issue whether the publication was " proper to be prosecuted " is not altogether remote from the present law which, although it rules out any "expert" evidence on the issue of obscenity, appears to allow witnesses to testify as to the scientific and educational value of a book. In the *Sexual Impulse* case in 1935 (*see* pp. 61-67 of my *The Banned Books of England*) a whole galaxy of distinguished people spoke for the book in this regard (unsuccessfully I regret to say) both in the magistrates' court and on appeal.

The case for creating the power of magistrates to destroy books under the Obscene Publications Act, 1857, was largely based on the cumbersome and lengthy procedure then necessary in bringing common law charges home to pornographers. Nowadays when the process, which can be summary, is quicker and more effective, the justification for the very unusual powers conferred by the Act is weakened. If, however, they are to continue, besides the reforms you suggest, persons interested should have the right to require the issue of obscenity to be tried by jury.

Although anyone aggrieved by Customs seizures can bring the matter before the courts, the choice between a magistrates' court and the High Court appears to rest solely with the Customs authorities. If they choose a magistrates' court there is no appeal. The discretion resting with the Customs authorities in this respect was commented on by Lord Goddard, C. J., in *R.* v. *London (County) Quarter Sessions, ex parte Bowes* [1950] 2 All E.R. 1043; 115 J.P. 9, a case about the seizure of some diamonds: *see* pp. 13, 14 of the latter. Where allegedly obscene books are seized, not only should the publisher be informed as you suggest, but interested parties should have the right to require the issue of obscenity to be tried by jury.

It is very rarely that cases of seizure of allegedly obscene matter by the Customs come into court, but there was an interesting one recently. Four consignments of imported nudist magazines were seized at the Port of London, and the consignee unsuccessfully defended his property at the Guildhall before Sir Frederick Weels who made a destruction order on October 9, 1952. It was common ground that matter seized did not differ materially from nudist and similar magazines circulated openly in this country, except that the photographs used as illustrations had not been retouched to delete the sexual organs.

The book *Julia* was not left alone by the authorities in England after the Isle of Man case to which you refer. Subsequently to a reprinting, the author, publishers, and printers, were prosecuted at the Clerkenwell police court. Pleas of "Guilty" were entered except by a director of the publishing firm who was concerned with the initial printing only, and he was found "Guilty." Fines were inflicted. The remarks of the learned magistrate, Mr. Harold Sturge, after hearing counsel in mitigation are of interest:

" One is, of course, tempted to think this sort of rubbish does not really hurt the likes of us. What I have to think of is not the likes of us. I have to think of ourselves as we were when we were going through puberty and adolescence. I think it plain and obvious that the ordinary way in which youngsters inclined that way would react would be to search from page to page in feverish haste to see if they could find something worse than the first passage. (*Manchester Guardian*, May 21, 1954.)"

Here again it is the " callow youth " of the recorder's summing up in the *September in Quinze* case who has to be considered.

Yours faithfully,
ALEC CRAIG.

5 Avenue House, N.W.3.

The Editor,
Justice of the Peace and
Local Government Review.

DEAR SIR,

LAND—RIGHT OF DRAINAGE

I am interested to read of the answer given to P.P. 4, p. 94, since it is a point which is concerning my own authority. I am not in agreement with the answer given, since it seems to me to run counter to s. 30 of the Public Health Act, 1936, and the decision given in *Durrant* v. *Branksome U.D.C.* (1897) 61 J.P. 472, nor do I quite appreciate the point made about concentrating the flow of drainage by canalization through a drain. It may be that the answer was given in consideration of the conveyancing aspects of the case but the answer seems to set out a general principle. Are there any decisions in point here ? I should be glad to receive comments on the above.

Yours sincerely,
G. E. WALKER.

Thames Conservancy,
2/3 Norfolk Street, Strand, W.C.2.

The Editor,
Justice of the Peace and
Local Government Review.

DEAR SIR,

I have to refer to the article " Improvement Grants: The Questions They Ask " in your issue of January 22. Your contributor states, halfway down the second column on p. 57, that the local authority do not now have to fix rents for premises outside the Rent Acts and that if such premises have not been let before (which includes all premises, provided by conversion, of over the necessary rateable value) there seems to be no control over the rent at all. May I suggest that this is incorrect ?

The contributor, has, I think, read s. 37 (1) " the duty . . . to fix a maximum rent . . . shall extend to every dwelling . . . to which the Act of 1920 applies " as if " extend " were merely " be in respect of " *i.e.*, " shall not relate to dwellings to which the Act does not apply " is not a proper inference from " shall relate to dwellings to which the Act does apply " even although " two negatives make a positive " is a generally accepted proposition.

The contributor's interpretation does not allow any meaning to be given to subs. 2 of s. 37. If the local authority are not to fix a rent for a house outside the Acts, there is nothing to become the standard rent " from the date on which the Rents Acts become applicable to the dwelling."

Yours faithfully,
W. C. SAXTON,
Deputy Clerk of the Council.

Municipal Offices,
Oldway, Paignton.

The Editor,
Justice of the Peace and
Local Government Review.

DEAR SIR,

With reference to your article on subsistence allowances in your issue of December 18, 1954, it appears that in comparing payments made to members and officers of local authorities the assumption you have made with respect to officers is disputable. The amount of £1 16*s.* is quoted without any qualification as being payable to an officer in respect of an absence for a period of " 24 hours."

Although this may be a working rule adopted by many local authorities, the fact of the matter is that nowhere in the National Joint Council Conditions of Service is it stated that the combined allowances for day and night absence are related to a period of 24 hours and it may be of interest for you to know that the Employers' Secretary of the National Joint Council in 1949 expressed in writing the following opinion:

" In the case of an officer entitled to an allowance under para. 19 (*c*) of the Scheme of Conditions of Service any day or part of a day counts for the flat rate allowance of one guinea."

It will be seen that for a period of 24 hours covering an absence overnight, it may easily happen that there would be two part days each qualifying under this ruling for the payment of £1 1*s.* As an example, if an officer left his place of employment for a conference in London at 6 *p.m.* on the first day and returned at 6 *p.m.* on the second day (24 hours), he would be entitled to claim £2 17*s.*

I feel that to let the figures included in your comparative statements go unchallenged may lead to the adoption of a " 24 hour " rule without any proper appreciation of the possibility of an alternative interpretation of the National Conditions which if followed would result in an adequate subsistence payment to officers.

Yours faithfully,
DEPUTY COUNTY TREASURER.

[We were aware of the interpretation mentioned by our correspondent and know that some authorities apply the scale in this way. As he indicates, however, a great many do not, and indeed we think it unlikely that it was in the minds of all who agreed to the figures in 1946 that £2 17*s.* should be allowed for 24 hours' absence. If so, those local authorities who have made their own scales—stated as improvements of the national scale—would not have fixed amounts of around £2 10*s.* as specifically payable for 24 hours' absence. This a number have in fact done.—*Ed., J.P. and L.G.R.*]

THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

From Our Lobby Correspondent

MEDICAL EVIDENCE IN ROAD ACCIDENTS

Mr. B. Janner (Leicester, N.W.) asked the Secretary of State if he was aware that the powers possessed by courts at the present time in connexion with cases of road accidents involving personal injury, to call for medical reports as to whether any physical or optical defects of the parties concerned might have been a contributory cause of the accident, were inadequate; and if he would introduce legislation to increase those powers.

Major Lloyd George replied that where criminal proceedings were taken following a road accident, it was open to either the prosecution or the defence to call any relevant medical evidence, and he was not aware that the courts required any special powers in addition to those which they already possessed to obtain a report on the physical and mental condition of the defendant after conviction to assist them in determining the appropriate penalty.

PROSTITUTION

Questioned about the problem of prostitution in central London, Major Lloyd George said that a departmental committee on homosexual offences and prostitution was sitting at the present time and he thought it best to await its report.

Mr. R. R. Stokes (Ipswich) asked " to what extent the whole prostitution organization in the West End is run with the knowledge and approval of the police."

The Home Secretary expressed regret that Mr. Stokes had seen fit to make an observation of that sort. " It is a reflexion upon what everybody agrees to be a very fine force " he said, " It is not done with the knowledge of the police. The very fact that the number of arrests has increased is due to increased activity on the part of the police in the West End."

MURDERS

The Home Secretary stated in a written Parliamentary answer that the number of murders known to the police in England and Wales in 1953, excluding cases ultimately dealt with as manslaughter or infanticide, was 141. In 53 of those cases, the suspected murderer died before trial, 51 of them by suicide. In 36 cases the supposed murderer was either found insane on arraignment and unfit to plead or guilty but insane. Two persons were handed over to the United States authorities for trial; in respect of one person the Attorney-General entered a *nolle prosequi*; and seven persons were acquitted. The number of persons convicted and sentenced to death was 28. Of those, one had his conviction quashed on appeal; one was subsequently certified insane; 10 were reprieved and had their sentences commuted to imprisonment for life; and 16 were executed.

CORRUPTION OF YOUTH

That prevention is better than cure is an accepted maxim in most of the everyday affairs of life; one of the disadvantages of an empirical legal system like ours is that it may tend to lag behind an informed and intelligent public opinion, and to permit an avowed evil to grow and flourish unchecked to a point where it threatens to choke and strangle the wholesome influences in society at large, before steps are taken to root it out. The parliamentary system, with all its virtues, can be slow and cumbersome, particularly when urgent action is required to deal with some crying corruption which results from the abuse of power by potent interests, vested in privilege, entrenched by wealth, and using as a battle-slogan the parrot-cry of "freedom from control." It is sometimes contended that such abuses can be more adequately dealt with by the judiciary, and it is true that great judges have, on occasion, not hesitated to adapt the law to changing circumstances. But judicial precedent is apt to cramp the task of the reformer on the bench, who may find his bolder judgments overruled by the more conservative attitude of a higher court and come reluctantly to state his conclusion that reform, vitally and urgently needed as it is, must come from the legislature.

The law relating to obscene publications is a matter very much in point. The position under the common law and the Act of 1857 has not long ago been meticulously examined, and the most important judicial decisions reviewed, in this journal, by more learned hands than ours, and it would be presumptuous for us to attempt any criticism of that survey. What we are here concerned with is the state of affairs leading to the introduction of the Children and Young Persons (Harmful Publications) Bill, which at the moment of writing has passed its second

reading in the Commons and is to be considered by a committee of the whole House. The topicality of the subject affords us some justification for returning to a related question—the impact of the so-called "horror comics" upon delinquency among juveniles and adolescents—a question which we have from time to time ventilated in this column during the past 18 months.

Delinquency among young people is no new problem, but no thinking person, whether lawyer or layman, will deny that in the post-war years it has appeared in new and alarming forms. Mischievous propensities among children and adolescents have always manifested themselves in such minor offences as truancy, petty dishonesty, destructiveness and recalcitrance to authority; experienced and understanding parents, teachers, magistrates and child-guidance workers have laboured devotedly to ascertain the causes behind the effects and to deal firmly but sympathetically with the offenders. There is, however, a world of difference between boyish or girlish mischief, which frequently arises from unhappy home conditions or a frustrated spirit of adventure, and the vile and revolting manifestations of gangsterism, cruelty, brutality and violence, towards victims whose status, in any right-thinking person, ought to arouse instincts of consideration and protection—old people, young children and helpless animals. Such cases, which sicken and disgust all decent citizens, have been increasingly prevalent during the past few years; they are a new and terrifying symptom of the violent age in which we live.

It is a truism to assert that the causes are complex—the instability of home-life during the years of war, interrupted schooling, parental irresponsibility and a lack of discipline in the home, and a general decline in moral values. No reasonable person suggests that any one cause can be isolated and made solely responsible for this *malaise*. *Post hoc ergo propter hoc* is a misleading maxim; yet at the same time it may be equally misleading, in making a diagnosis, deliberately to shut one's eyes to the patient's case-history. Juvenile delinquency, though it declined during 1953, was continuously on the increase before that year, and qualitatively, as well as quantitatively, it is a far graver problem than in pre-war days. During the same post-war period the market has been flooded with new types of periodicals designed primarily to appeal to children and adolescents—the so-called "horror comics." It is futile for conservative old gentlemen to assert that the *Gem*, the *Magnet*, and other lurid periodicals which they furtively read under the desk in their schooldays were just as bad: our recollection is otherwise. These latter contained adventure-stories, tales of romantic imagination, episodes of war, bloodshed—violence, if you will; but they definitely were not a corrupting influence in the same sense as the trash published today. They did not, as do these current publications, gloat over scenes of sadistic cruelty—sadistic in the true psychological sense of receiving or providing sexual satisfaction from the infliction of pain or from descriptions of such infliction. They did not emphasize vicious brutality, sickening torture, gruesome morbidity, unwholesome abnormality. Most of the present-day publications of the kind are either imported or imitated from their prototypes in the United States, where some 60 million copies of this kind of filth are in monthly circulation. An American psychiatrist, Dr. Frederic Wertham, has recently published a book on the subject, which has been reviewed in *The Times*, *The Observer* and other first-class newspapers.

"Many of the comics seem deliberately designed to blunt the finer feelings of conscience, to scoff at mercy and sympathy, and to encourage the basest instincts of sex and cruelty . . . There are a number of recurring themes—the plunging of sharp instruments into people's eyes, the stressing of vulnerable parts of the human body, infinite variations on the standard variations of sex, pandering in detail to any incipient abnormalities . . . Among many American children the 'horror comics' have become nothing less than an obsession . . . and have contributed to entirely new kinds of juvenile delinquency—sexual offences and crimes of perverted violence. Children have been convicted of 'lust-murders,' assaults on babies and old people, the burning alive of smaller children. Even psychotic children did not act like this fifteen years ago."

That the same poison has been circulating within our own body politic is clear from the recent debate in Committee. The Bill would make it an offence to print, publish, import or sell any pictorial publication harmful to children and young persons, if such publication is:

"a book, magazine or like work which consists wholly or mainly of stories told in pictures, with or without the addition of written matter, portraying the commission of crimes, acts of violence or cruelty, or incidents of a repulsive or horrible nature in such a way that the work as a whole would tend to corrupt a child or young person . . . by inciting or encouraging him to commit crimes, or acts of violence or cruelty or in any other way."

It is not for us to anticipate parliamentary discussion on the details of the Bill; but honourable members and others will no doubt have taken due note of the Home Secretary's statement that

"as the result of judicial decisions the word 'obscene' has come to be regarded as restricted to matters relating to sex. It is unlikely therefore that publications which deal with horror and violence could be the subject of successful prosecution under existing law."

This is the kind of situation which we have frequently deprecated in this column in the past, and to which we have referred in the opening paragraph of this article. Whatever their individual opinions on the merits or demerits of the Bill, all decent-minded citizens will rejoice that this dreadful threat to the minds and souls of the rising generation is at last being publicly discussed by the representatives of the nation in Parliament assembled; in whatever form the Bill may ultimately emerge, the publicity, if report be true, has already had salutary results. It is high time that those who seek to make money by purveying these disgusting and revolting periodicals should be condemned by public opinion and the law as roundly as those who earn their living by procuration or the direct corruption of youth.

A.L.P.

NOTICES

UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

A lecture on Foundations of the Authority of International Law and the Problem of Enforcement, will be given by Sir Gerald Fitzmaurice, C.M.G., Legal Adviser to the Foreign Office, at King's College, Strand, W.C.2, at 5 *p.m.*, on Thursday, March 17, 1955.

The chair will be taken by Professor R. H. Graveson, LL.D., S.J.D., Professor of Law in the University of London.

The lecture is addressed to students of the university and to others interested in the subject. Admission is free, without ticket.

THE PROBATION OFFICERS' CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

The Annual Meeting of the Fellowship will be held on Saturday, March 19, 1955, at St. John's Hall, Monck Street, London, S.W.1. Programme: 3 *p.m.*, Annual General Meeting (members only). 4 *p.m.*, Tea—available for members and visitors. 4.30 *p.m.*, Open Meeting. Speaker: Rev. E. F. Kevan, M.TH. (Principal, London Bible College). Chairman: Mr. F. J. Powell, Metropolitan Magistrate (President). A warm invitation is given to all probation officers, magistrates, lawyers, welfare officers, and members of the police force.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE

Progress of Bills

HOUSE OF COMMONS

Monday, February 28

PUBLIC WORKS LOANS BILL, read 2a.

FISHERIES BILL, read 3a.

Thursday, March 3

HOTEL PROPRIETORS (LIABILITIES AND RIGHTS) BILL, read 1a.

PRACTICAL POINTS

All questions for consideration should be addressed to "The Publishers of the Justice of the Peace and Local Government Review, Little London, Chichester, Sussex." The questions of yearly and half-yearly subscribers only are answerable in the Journal. The name and address of the subscriber must accompany each communication. All communications must be typewritten or written on one side of the paper only, and should be in duplicate.

1.—Adoption—*Consents—Abandoned child—Identity of parents not known.*

An application has been made to my justices, by two spouses, for an order under the Adoption Act, 1950, authorizing them to adopt an infant who has been abandoned.

The infant was apparently found on a doorstep, and the local authority subsequently assumed parental rights by making a resolution under s. 2 of the Children Act, 1948, all efforts to trace the parents of the infant having failed and their identity and whereabouts being unknown. A birth certificate has been issued showing that both the father and mother of the infant are unknown, and the children's officer of the local authority has given his consent in writing under s. 2 of the Adoption Act, 1950.

It seems that the correct procedure would be for the applicants to apply to the justices to dispense with the consent of the parents under s. 3 of the Adoption Act. In the circumstances, however, it is impossible to serve the notice required by r. 9 of the Adoption of Children (Summary Jurisdiction) Rules, 1949, as amended. As the justices have no power to dispense with the service of a notice I am of the opinion that they have no power to make an order, and I should welcome your comments.

I have read P.P. 1 of the Practical Points appearing in the "Justice of the Peace" for March 8, 1952, and although the circumstances therein were substantially the same the last known address of the parents was available, whereas I am unable to obtain even this information. S. LEX.

Answer.

As the identity of the parents is unknown it is obviously impossible to make them respondents to the application. In these circumstances we think the question of serving notice cannot arise, and we think the justices can entertain the application. They should be satisfied by evidence that every effort has been made to ascertain the identity of the parents and that there is no reasonable possibility of tracing them.

2.—Adoption—*Infant's parents divorced—Position of former husband.*

A married woman gave birth to a child on December 21, 1953. This child was subsequently placed for adoption in Derbyshire by a registered adoption society and I was appointed guardian, *ad litem*. The documents submitted included a consent by the mother only. On making further inquiries as to the husband's consent, I was informed the parties had not lived together for three years and, in fact, the woman had obtained a divorce for desertion. I obtained a copy of the decree and found that a decree was made on January 14, 1954, and the decree absolute on February 26, 1954, and was obtained by the husband on the grounds of desertion by the wife for a period of three years immediately preceding the presentation of the petition.

Would you kindly let me have your opinion as to whether or not, in view of the date of birth of the child and the subsequent divorce, the court can, under s. 3 (2) of the Adoption Act, 1950, dispense with the husband's consent? SOLOGON.

Answer.

We suppose the suggestion is that the infant is illegitimate, but as it was born in wedlock there is a strong presumption of legitimacy, and therefore we think the former husband of the mother should be made a respondent and his consent sought. If he refuses on the ground that he is not the father, evidence may satisfy the justices that this is so, in which case of course his consent becomes immaterial. If this is not proved, it is for the justices to decide whether one of the grounds stated in s. 3 (1) for dispensing with consent (*e.g.*, that it is unreasonably withheld) has been made out. If they are satisfied by evidence they may exercise their discretion. We presume he is not claiming that he should have the child.

3.—Highways—*Provision of cycle racks in streets.*

The council have under consideration the matter of providing cycle racks on or near the streets in the town for use by members of the public, but it is not clear whether they have any specific statutory power to do so.

Will you please advise:

1. Whether the powers contained in s. 68 of the Public Health Act, 1925, as extended by s. 16 of the Restriction of Ribbon Development Act, 1935, are sufficiently wide to authorize the council to provide cycle racks on the footpath or other part of a public street or on land off the street.

2. Whether there is any other statutory or other provision which would assist the council in this matter. BURDO.

Answer.

1. We think not, if the parking place is in a street, for the practical reason explained in detail at 115 J.P.N. 289. If not in a street, yes.

2. We know of no express provision, though cycle stands are a common facility in public recreation grounds and other premises provided under various powers.

4.—Husband and Wife—*Persistent cruelty—Particulars of.*

On the hearing of a complaint by a wife for a separation and maintenance order against her husband, on the ground that on the day of and on other days prior thereto he had been guilty of persistent cruelty to her, the husband's solicitor applied for an adjournment, saying that the further and better particulars of the complaint requested by him from the wife's solicitors had not been forthcoming, and he was therefore unable to prepare the defence.

Your opinion would be appreciated on the following point:

Has a defendant's solicitor any right to demand such "further and better particulars" in such an application before a magistrates' court, and if he has such right, what action should be taken by the court in the event of a failure by the complainant's solicitors to supply such particulars? S.K.P.W.

Answer.

Although it has been laid down that particulars should be supplied in cases of adultery *Olding* v. *Olding* [1936] 3 All E.R. 189 we know of no authority for saying that they must be supplied in cases of persistent cruelty. In our opinion it is perfectly reasonable, however, to ask the justices for an adjournment. If they decide to go on with the case, application might be made for an adjournment to consider the complainant's evidence, cross-examination being postponed in the meantime.

5.—Land Charges Act, 1925—*Planning permission—Registrar doubts its necessity—Duty to register.*

As clerk of the local authority I received from the county planning authority a request to register a planning charge, *i.e.*, a planning permission limited to five years. This planning permission authorizes the change of use of a building not now agricultural to "part agricultural store and part deep litter poultry house." As registrar of local land charges I have suggested the new uses are agricultural purposes within the meaning of s. 119 (1) of the Town and Country Planning Act, 1947, and that in consequence planning permission to put the building to those uses is not required by reason of the exemption contained in sub-para. (*e*) of the proviso to s. 12 (2) of the Act—the words "any land" in that sub-paragraph including, by virtue of the definition of "land" in s. 119 (1), buildings. The planning authority reply ". . . the only persons who can be concerned with the planning permission are the developers and the county planning committee."

Will you kindly advise:

1. Whether the change of use to the purposes stated is so exempt as suggested?

2. If so exempt, is there any duty upon the registrar to register the so-called planning permission? D.X.Y.Z.

Answer.

1. This may be so, although s. 12 (2) (*e*) says "use for the purposes of agriculture," not "use for agricultural purposes," as the query puts it. There are decisions upon the meaning of such words, in other contexts, but these do not necessarily help here.

2. Even so, we think the registrar should register. He has no power to give an interpretation binding upon the parties concerned or upon the courts, and it would be a usurpation of authority for him to refuse to register a permission which the planning authority (and presumably the applicant for permission) regard as properly given. The results of such usurpation might be so serious, if the planning authority acquiesced, that we should expect them to resort to *mandamus*.

6.—Landlord and Tenant—*Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954—Disrepair.*

Referring to the article "Certificates of Disrepair" at 118 J.P.N. 697, and in particular to para. (*g*), in view of the repeal of s. 5 of the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions Act, 1923; s. 12 of the Rent and Mortgage Interest Restrictions (Amendment) Act, 1933, and s. 2 (2) of the Rent Act of 1920, can a tenant who has not been served with a notice in accordance with s. 25 of the Housing Repairs and Rents Act, 1954, still be granted a certificate of disrepair? If so, the authority relied upon would be appreciated. ATHU.

Answer.

No.

7.—Magistrates—*Jurisdiction and powers—Adjournment of hearing on defendant's failure to appear—Summons duly served—Notice of adjourned hearing sent by post and returned "Left address"—Power to proceed at adjourned hearing.*

A summons to hear a complaint for an order was served on a defendant by my court and at the hearing the wife's solicitor informed the court that she had received a letter from her husband that he did not intend to defend the proceedings. The wife's solicitor nevertheless suggested that as the husband had not appeared the magistrates might adjourn the case to give him a further opportunity of doing so.

This was done and notice of the adjournment sent by letter to the husband at the address where the summons had been served upon him. Apparently the husband did not receive this letter as it was returned through the post marked "Left this address."

1. In view of s. 46 (2) of the Magistrates' Courts Act, 1952, can the magistrates deal with the matter at the adjourned hearing knowing that the husband has not received notice of the date?

2. Do you consider that the words of the concluding sentence of subs. (2) of s. 46 should be interpreted to refer only to the "adjourned" hearing when the time and place is to be determined later, or also to formal adjournments when the time and place is then fixed, that is to the whole of subs. (2)?

3. Assuming the latter to be the case then on the facts of the matter above quoted, do you consider that "adequate" notice has been given to the husband, he having been written to at the address previously known and the letter returned?

4. In view of s. 47 (4) of the Act, which relates to the issue of a warrant and not the making of an order, can the court be satisfied that the husband has had adequate notice of the adjourned hearing?

I shall be grateful if I could receive your comments and to be referred to any cases or previous queries on the point. TILKA.

Answer.

1. We think not. This may seem illogical when the court could properly have proceeded on the first occasion, but we think s. 46 (2) cannot be otherwise interpreted.

2. To all adjourned hearings.

3. No.

4. No.

We can find no authority on the point, but the provision of r. 76 (2) about postal service of a summons may be compared.

8.—Public Health Act, 1936—*Nuisance—Overflow from sewer—Cost of abatement.*

A built a house about 40 years ago on land sloping away from the highway in which is situated the council's public sewer. The drains connecting the house to the sewer are, in consequence, rather flat but in normal conditions are quite capable of draining the property. They were presumably passed as satisfactory when laid. Building has taken place over the years and the public sewer now becomes surcharged in times of storm, the sewerage being on the combined method. As a consequence of this the contents of the sewer back up under pressure into A's drains and his premises are flooded with sewage matter. He has been advised to construct a flap valve in his drain, but contends that the council should carry out this work at their expense. The council are sympathetically inclined but I cannot find any authority for the incurring of expenditure by them on private drains. Would you please advise whether the case could be dealt with under proviso (*b*) to s. 93 of the Public Health Act, 1936, assuming the existence of a statutory nuisance is established. P.P.P.C.

Answer.

We can see no objection, and think this is the proper course. The statutory nuisance seems indubitable.

9.—Road Traffic Acts—*Dangerous driving—Charges against each of two drivers involved in an accident—Hearing the two cases together.*

An accident has occurred between two motor cars as a result of which a passenger in one of the cars has died. The police feel that possibly both drivers were driving dangerously or alternatively carelessly under s. 11 or 12 of the Road Traffic Act, 1930 and they have therefore taken out summonses for dangerous driving and also for careless driving against each of the drivers.

It is proposed to take the two cases together. Technically this would seem to be irregular as evidence in all probability will arise which is evidence against one but not against the other. On the other hand it would be extremely inconvenient to go through all the evidence twice over.

I shall be glad to know whether you see any objection to the two cases being taken together:

(*a*) if the two defendants agree to this course, and

(*b*) if one of the defendants demands a separate trial.

JUST TECHNICAL.

Answer.

(*a*) If the defendants are told of their right to have the two cases heard separately and both agree to their being heard together we think this can properly be done.

(*b*) If either defendant asks to have his case heard separately from the other we think it would be improper for the court to seek to hear the two together. This is not a joint trial of defendants charged with the same offence. The offences are quite separate and distinct.

10.—Slaughterhouse Act, 1954—*Compensation for refusal of licence.*

In this area there were before the war five slaughter-houses. In view of the recent arrangements for local slaughtering, on the application of the five individual slaughterers, my council decided to license three of the slaughter-houses, one of these being only after considerable repairs and improvements had been carried out. In respect of the remaining two the council decided that they would not license the slaughter-houses and accordingly a letter was sent to the applicants informing them of the council's decision, but this was not on the statutory form. Subsequently a firm of solicitors for one of the applicants raised the question of the local authority's refusal, as a result of which the council agreed that the sanitary inspector should meet a representative from the firm of slaughterers, to discuss improvements which might be acceptable. A report of the meeting and of the adaptations proposed has now been considered by the appropriate committee of the council, and they are prepared to accept the work and on its completion propose to license the slaughter-house. The remaining one slaughter-house is owned by a butcher who has slaughtering facilities in an adjoining area outside the council's district. The butcher concerned has forwarded a letter stating that he now wishes to claim compensation, £500.

In view of this will you kindly let me know what steps should be taken to deal with this claim. By whom is compensation assessed? Should the proper procedure under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, be invoked, *viz.*, the service of a notice on the butcher of the local authority's decision not to license the slaughter-house, giving him the requisite notice to appeal to the magistrates, or would it be possible to deal with this claim for compensation without the foregoing necessity? PARRIC.

Answer.

Compensation will be payable under s. 5 (5) of the Slaughterhouse Act, 1954, on the council's passing a resolution under s. 61 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, as extended by s. 4 of the Act of 1954; *see* s. 5 (1) of the Act of 1954. Notice of refusal should be served in accordance with s. 57 of the Act of 1938.

OFFICIAL AND CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS, ETC. (*Contd.*)

HAYES AND HARLINGTON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Appointment of Law Clerk

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment at a salary within A.P.T. Division Grade IV (£675—£825) according to qualifications and experience, plus London "Weighting." Forms of application and further particulars and conditions relating to the appointment obtainable from the undersigned to whom completed applications must be returned by April 5, 1955.

GEORGE HOOPER,
Clerk and Solicitor.

Town Hall,
Hayes, Middlesex.

COUNTY OF WEST SUFFOLK

Appointment of Assistant Solicitor

APPLICATIONS are invited for this superannuable appointment at a commencing salary within the scale £690 × £30—£900.

Experience in Local Government is not essential.

Forms of application, which may be obtained from the undersigned, should reach this office on or before April 7, 1955.

ALAN F. SKINNER,
Clerk of the County Council.

Shire Hall,
Bury St. Edmunds,
Suffolk.

PONTYPOOL URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Appointment of Legal and Committee Clerk

APPLICATIONS are invited for the post of Legal and Committee Clerk at a salary in accordance with Grade I of the National Scale (£500 × £20—£580).

Candidates should be capable of undertaking conveyancing with nominal supervision. The successful candidate will be required to assist in the general legal work of the office and to take some share in Committee work.

The post is superannuable, subject to the National Scheme of Conditions of Service, and to medical examination.

Applications, with full particulars and with the names and addresses of two referees, should reach the undersigned not later than March 19, 1955.

H. COOK,
Clerk of the Council.

Town Hall,
Pontypool.

RURAL DISTRICT OF RIPON AND PATELEY BRIDGE

Appointment of Clerk to the Council

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment from Solicitors with experience in local government law and administration.

The salary and conditions of service will be in accordance with the recommendations of the Joint Negotiating Committee for District Council Clerks. The latest estimate of population is 14,870 (1951 Census—13,959).

Applications must reach the undersigned not later than March 29, 1955, and must contain particulars of age, articles, date of admission, past and present appointments with dates and salaries, names and addresses of two referees. Applicants must state whether they are related to any member or senior officer of the Council. Canvassing will disqualify.

J. A. CHURCHILL,
Clerk to the Council.

Council Offices, Pateley Bridge,
Harrogate, Yorks.
March 2, 1955.

DEWSBURY COUNTY BOROUGH MAGISTRATES' COURTS COMMITTEE

Male Assistant

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of a whole-time male assistant in the Justices' Clerk's Office. Applicants should have some experience in general magisterial practice and accounts.

Salary will be within scale £495 to £545 (subject to adjustment when award of Joint Negotiating Council relating to Justices' Clerks' assistants is promulgated). The appointment is superannuable and subject to one month's notice on either side.

Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, together with copies of two recent testimonials to be submitted to the undersigned not later than March 31, 1955.

D. R. H. GARDNER,
Clerk to the Justices.

Town Hall,
Dewsbury.

EASTERN ELECTRICITY BOARD

Law Clerk—
Area Board Headquarters

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of Law Clerk in the department of the Secretary and Solicitor to the Board from Law Clerks with experience in litigation and in common law work generally.

The salary will be in accordance with Grade 5 (£720 × £25—£795) of the National Joint Council Agreement commencing at a point dependent upon the successful candidate's ability and experience. Future salary and conditions of service will be in accordance with agreements made from time to time by the appropriate negotiating bodies.

The successful candidate will be required to contribute to a superannuation scheme and may be required to undergo a medical examination.

Applications by letter, stating age, education, qualifications and experience, with details of present appointment and salary, and giving the names of two referees, should be submitted to the Secretary, Eastern Electricity Board, P.O. Box No. 40, Wherstead, Ipswich, Suffolk, within 14 days of the appearance of this advertisement.

BOROUGH OF SOUTHGATE

Second Assistant Solicitor

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment in the Town Clerk's Department. Salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grade VI (£825—£1,000 per annum) of the National Salary Scales plus "London Weighting" commencing £825 per annum. Established post. Medical examination.

Applications, stating age and full particulars of experience, together with the names of two referees, should reach the undersigned by not later than first post on Tuesday, March 29, 1955.

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GORDON H. TAYLOR,
Town Clerk.

Southgate Town Hall,
London, N.13.

CHESHIRE PROBATION COMMITTEE

APPLICATIONS invited for appointment of full-time male Probation Officer, based at Macclesfield. Conditions and salary subject to Probation Rules. Applicants should be able to drive a car. Applications, stating age, qualifications and experience, and giving the names and addresses of three referees, must reach the undersigned by first post on Monday, March 21, 1955.

HUGH CARSWELL,
Secretary to the Committee.

St. John's House,
Chester.

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